Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Good attendance is essential to student achievement and graduation, and South Dakota is committed to reducing chronic absenteeism rates; and,

Whereas, Chronic absence – missing 10 percent or more of school or just 2 or 3 days a month – is a proven predictor of academic trouble and dropout rates; and,

Whereas, The impact of chronic absence hits low-income students who are more likely to face systemic barriers in getting to school – such as unreliable transportation, lack of access to health care, unstable or unaffordable housing; and,

Whereas, Improving attendance and reducing chronic absence takes commitment, collaboration, and approaches tailored to particular challenges and strengths in each community; and,

Whereas, Chronic absence can be significantly reduced when schools, parents, and communities work together to monitor and promote good attendance and address hurdles that keep children from getting to school:

Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim September 2016, as

ATTENDANCE AWARENESS MONTH

in South Dakota, and encourage school leaders, parents, and communities to spread the message that good attendance matters and to develop solutions to ensure all children are in school as much as possible and engaged in their learning.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Tenth Day of August in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Sixteen.

Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

Shantel Krebs, Secretary of State